

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19 to clarify the invention.

Figure 1 stands objected as requiring a legend, such as "Prior Art". Applicant has amended figure 1 to include this legend. The replacement drawing is attached to this response.

Claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as indefinite. First, the examiner states that the phrase "a plurality of mounting rails fixedly attached to said chassis" in claim 2 is vague and indefinite because it is not clear what structural limitations are being claimed. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Figure 4 shows a close up perspective of the forward ends of the chassis assembly 20 and clearly shows a plurality of mounting rails 24 attached to the chassis assembly. The specification further describes that the mounting rails are preferably Military Standard 1913 pattern mounting rails (which the examiner also objects to in claim 3). Military Standard 1913 is a public document that is known in the art (a copy can be obtained via a simple search on the internet). Being a military standard, the uses (various attachments such as optical or laser sites, etc.) and general mounting locations on standard military weapons for the mounting rails are known in the art, and, therefore, use of the term is in no way vague or indefinite.

The examiner further objects to claim 8 as vague and indefinite because the relationship of the claimed elements is not clear. Again, applicant disagrees. Claim 1 calls for a buttstock/grip mount assembly that is detachably attached to the chassis assembly. Claim 8 calls for the buttstock/grip mount assembly to include an element of a mounting base, which pursuant to figure 6 and those skilled in the art, refers to the base

mounted to the chassis and a mounting rail fixedly attached to the mounting base. Again, this limitation seems perfectly clear to the applicant. An example is shown in figure 6 and one skilled in the art would have no difficulty understanding the relationship between these elements. If the examiner's objections relate to the lack of the exact location of the attachment of the mounting rails on the chassis or mounting base being claimed, applicant asserts that the mounting rails may be placed in numerous locations along the outside of the chassis. One skilled in the art understands that mounting rails, in order to be operable for their intended purpose (which is to mount various mechanisms thereon), must inherently be mounted to an outside surface of the chassis, and, therefore, such a limitation within the claims is superfluous. Regardless, applicant believes that the above remarks clarify that the claims are not vague and indefinite.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Donnell (U.S. 3,611,607) in view of Fitzpatrick et al. (U.S. 6,651,371). Specifically, the examiner states that Donnell discloses most of the claimed elements except the sliding buttstock attached to the buttstock/grip mount assembly, which is disclosed by Fitzpatrick et al. and combination of the references is obvious.

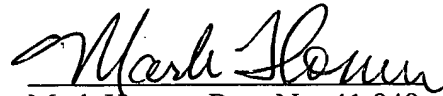
In order to fully demonstrate the non-obvious nature of the present invention, a short description of the operation of the references with respect to the present invention is helpful. The Donnell reference discloses an invention that is designed to cosmetically alter the stock for an M1 carbine to make it look like an M16 rifle. Other than the ammunition clip, Donnell's invention does not in any way affect the operability of the weapon. The Fitzpatrick reference discloses an invention that is a telescoping stock mechanism that focuses on the locking mechanism and is used on the M4 carbine (M16

version). It should be noted that the M16 does not employ an operating rod guide, but rather employs direct gas to operate. The present invention uses a novel replacement operating rod guide in order to support a moving element of the M14 rifle which allows the replacement operating rod guide to open and close the bolt with each shot while retaining the barrel in a fixed position in relation to the chassis. This significantly increases the accuracy of the M14 rifle. Also, the mounting rails being fixed to the chassis allows for mounting of laser or optic mounting in alignment with the bore (the laser or optic mountings are adjustable, but remain fixed with respect to the bore to allow for use as sighting devices).

Therefore, it can clearly be seen that the most novel element of the present invention (the replacement operating rod guide) is not disclosed in either of the references and one skilled in the art would never be led to modify the references to include such an element because said references were not designed to improve the accuracy of weapons. In order to more clearly describe this novel element of the present invention, the applicant has amended the independent claims in order to more fully describe said element. Thus, applicant asserts that no combination of these or any other references would make the present invention obvious.

Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the examiner to withdraw all objections and rejections and allow said claims. Should the examiner need more information regarding this matter or have further suggestions regarding this application, feel free to call the undersigned at 401-832-6679.

Respectfully submitted,



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